

19 September 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: Hearings Before CIA Oversight Committees

1. Attached is a paper prepared by this office on the origins of CIA. We feel it might be useful as a first step in the preparations for our oversight committees' hearings on CIA. It is a perhaps oversimplified account of how we come from a situation where the Government had no centralized intelligence mechanism through OSS and CIG to the National Security Act of 1947 and the CIA Act of 1949, but I think that it sets forth the basic story. It is not classified and might be the type of thing that would be useful for preparation of a committee report.

2. I suggest that you talk about this with Mr. Braswell and Mr. Woolsey (I mentioned it to Mr. Woolsey on the telephone today), emphasizing that it is just the first step and could be a lead in to an account of how the centralized intelligence system works at the present time. I understand such an account is being worked on by Walter Elder. Mr. Slatinshek's reaction would be useful too.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
Office of General Counsel

Attachment

cc: Mr. Walter Elder